Government are requested to restart those N.T.C. Mills and the unemployed mill workers be provided employment. They want to do work and become self-dependent. They want to run the mill on co-operative basis. Please direct the Government to restart N.T.C. Mill of Bayawar and Aditya Mill of Kishangarh.

SHRI SURESH R. JADHAV (Parbhani) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, thank you for giving me a chance to speak. Modern Food Industry is the biggest Industry in the country and Asia. There are many branches of this Mill in India. Lacs of workers are employed therein. The Ministry of Finance and the Disinvestment Commission have decided to disinvest its shares. I request you that its shares may not be disinvested because it is the question of the livelihood of lacs of workers.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : Shri Mullappally Ramachandran and Shri Ajay Kumar, both of you have given notice on the same issue. It relates to raising the allocation of foodgrains, Already, this matter was raised on the 4th August 1997. So, this cannot be allowed now as per the rules. Now, I call Shri Kodikunnil Suresh.

SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMACHANDRAN (Cannanor): Who raised it? Nobody has raised it.

SHRI KODIKUNNIL SURESH (Adoor) : Mr. Chairman Sir, I would like to draw the attention of this hon. House to the silence of the Ministry of Civil Aviation on the alarming situation.....*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: This matter was already raised on the 4th August, 1997.

SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMACHANDRAN : Who raised it? Nobody from Kerala has raised this issue.

MR. CHAIRMAN : That is not written here in the list but it has already been raised.

SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMACHANDRAN : But it is a major issue concerning allocation of foodgrains to the State of Kerala.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Anyway, let Shri Suresh raise his matter now; after that, I may allow you. Please take your seat.

SHRI KODIKUNNIL SURESH (Adoor) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, I would like to draw the attention of the hon. House to the silence of the Ministry of Civil Aviation on the alarming situation of the Gulf passengers who have been stranded in Kerala due to non-availability of sufficient flights for their Journey to the Gulf countries.

As of today, there are more than 5,000 passengers waiting to get flight tickets to the Gulf countries from Thiruvananthapuram and Kozhikode Airports. The Ministry is reluctant to provide additional flights and not even permitting the private airlines which are ready to operate during this peak season. It is pertinent to note that Air India and Indian Airlines are providing additional flights from other sectors but have excluded the Trivandrum and Calicut sector.

I, therefore, urge upon the hon. Minister to intervene in this matter and provide additional flights from the Thiruvananthapuram and Kozhikode sector to the Gulf countries during peak seasons.

Thank you.

SHRI S. AJAY KUMAR (Ottapulam) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, I rise to request, through you, the hon. Minister of Food and Civil Supplies to enhance the allocation of foodgrains from 17.76 lakh tonnes to 24 lakh tonnes, which used to be the allocation for the State of Kerala for the last several years.

The present allocation of 17.76 lakh tonnes of foodgrains is in the form of 14.76 lakh tonnes rice and three lakh tonnes wheat. Since the State of Kerala requires more rice, I demand that seven lakh tonnes of additional rice should be made available to the State at Central Issue Price.

SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMACHANDRAN : Sir, I want to support what Shri Ajay Kumar has said just now. This is a major issue because there is shortage of foodgrains in the State of Kerala. There is considerable reduction of supply of foodgrains under the Targeted Public Distribution System this year. We all know that the State of Kerala is reeling under flood and this devastating flood has affected the State to a great extent. Onam is fast approaching. During the last two years, twenty thousand tonnes of additional foodgrains were allotted to the State. My request is that this should be enhanced to fifty thousand tonnes this year as the Onam season is fast approaching.

SHRI N.K. PREMCHANDRAN (Quilon) : Sir, I would like to draw the attention of the hon. Minister of Finance regarding a issue which is affecting lakhs of workers in the State of Kerala. The State of Kerala is the pioneer in enacting labour welfare legislations. There are twelve labour welfare legislation in the State. They are not being run for deriving any profits, but they are functioning for the welfare of the workers. It is functioning on the contribution of the workers.

Recently, a huge amount of income-tax has been assessed on the Worker' Welfare Fund Board and the recovery and attachment proceeding are going on. So, I would like to request the hon. Minister of Finance to exempt this Board from paying taxes. Sir, the former hon. Minister of Finance, in one of his Budget speeches, said that this Board will be exempt from paying taxes. I would like to urge upon the Ministry of Finance to exempt this Board from

paying taxes as they are not running with any profit motive. This Board is functioning to safeguard the interests of the poor workers who are being benefited now.

SHRI BADAL CHOUDHURY (Tripura West) : It has been reported that several extremist groups like the ATTF and NLFT of Tripura and ULFA of Assam have called a bandh on 15th August 1997 in all the North-Eastern States. They have sought the help of other extremist groups of the region to join them in their call. This is a serious threat to sovereignty and integrity of the country.

It is needless to mention that imperlalist forces are behind all these heinous activities of the extremists. Operation Brahmaputra launched by them was designed nearly two decades back with the specific aim to dismember India and weaken the country.

I urge upon Parliament and the Government of India to strongly condemn this anti-national activity of the extremist and secessionist forces operating in the North - East. I also call upon the Central Government to extend all out help to the State Governments of the region in their bid to combat the extremists and spoil their nefarious activities.

[Translation]

SHRI SOHANVEER SINGH (Mujaffarnagar) : I while endorsing the views put forth by the Hon. Member on the Employment Assurance Scheme, take this debate ahead. Though the funds are made available for providing employment but it is not possible to provide employment due to prevailing corruption in this scheme. In fact, this scheme is the mother of all corruption. The district administration has to carry out several government works, therefore it is not able to provide funds for developmental works. The Government's failure in providing funds in time also gives way for large scale corruption. More than half of the funds earmarked for this scheme goes into the coffers of the Government officers. Therefore, through you I would earnestly request the Government that the funds allocated by the Union Government under this scheme should be spent with the approval of the local M.P the guidelines laid down in regard should be adhered to.

Mr. Chairman Sir, I would request you to issue directives to the Government in this regard.....*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN : Now it is Shri Ramshakal Ji turn to speak.....*(Interruptions)*

SHRI RAMSHAKAL (Robertsganj) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, large scale bunglings have been committed in whatever schemes have been launched by the Government of India in the rural areas in my Constituency, Robertsganj. The officers have been involved on large scale corruption in these schemes. The labourers working on the works being undertaken in the district under the Jawahar Rojgar Yojana, ten lakh Wells Scheme and Assured Employment Scheme are not even been being paid full wages at the rate of Rs. 47 per day. The funds allocated for the ten lakh well scheme are being looted in collusion with officers and contractors people's representative does not know even how much amount was received by the district under the Assured Employment Scheme and the Schemes on which for said amount was spent. All work is being done on paper. Therefore I would like to request the Union Government through you that a technical inquiry should be get conducted into the works being carried out under various schemes and the labourers working on these schemes should be given proper wages through the District Collector.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Shri Ramvilas Vedanti. Shri Ramvilas Vedanti

.....*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN : Your name has been called twice. Yours is the case of railways. Please speak on the railway budget.

The leader of the House should sit in his allotted seat. It would be better if the leader of the House sits in his allotted seat.

SHRI JAGAT VIR SINGH DRONA (Kanpur) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, how callous is the attitude of the Union Government towards the States where there are the Governments of the opposition parties. I would like to give an example of Uttar Pradesh in this context.

Kanpur, has apopulation of 40 lakh, there has been an acute shortage of drinking water. In the tenth Lok Sabha, after a great deal of efforts, the then Union Water Resources Minister the Hon. Vidayacharan Shukla visited Kanpur on January 20, 1994 and sanctioned the scheme of constructing a barrage across the Ganges. 50 per cent of the expenditure thereon was to be borne by the Union Government and the remaining 50 per cent by the State Government. There were three objectives of this barrage. One was constructing a barrage on the river, the estimated cost to be incurred thereon was Rs.173 crore .....*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHARIMAN : Vedantiji, you please take your seat. Your name was called twice but you were not there. Now you will get a chance after pappu Yadavji.

SHRI JAGAT VIR SINGH DRONA : A scheme was formulated by the Jal Nigam to solve the drinking water problem of Kanpur on which a sum of Rs. 60 crore was to be incurred. In the aggregate it was a scheme of Rs. 233 crore. And this burden was to be borne by the Union Government and the State Government on 50-50 per cent basis. In the first phase the Union Government provided only Rs. 4 crore and whereas the State Government has spent Rs. 24.24 crore so far but the share of the Union Government has not been received as a result of which a question mark has been put on the fate of this barrage which is being constructed by the Irrigation Department